

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain in the application with claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 14, 15, and 18 having been amended hereby and claim 19 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings.

Submitted herewith are replacement sheets for Figs. 16 and 17 in which the legend "Prior Art" has been added to each figure.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the title.

A new title has been proposed hereby that is intended to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the amended claims are directed.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-11, 13, 14, 17, and 18 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Takatsu.

The present invention is intended to provide an improved stereoscopic zoom lens in which the shutter and diaphragm is arranged at a specific location not in front of the zoom lens elements as is typically the case. Specifically, the zoom lens is provided as the outer most element of the composite lens, which also includes a first lens group and a second lens group. Because the present invention is intended to provide a stereoscopic image, the shutter and diaphragm is arranged as two elements or portions so as to receive a right image and a left image. These left and right image elements that function

either as a shutter and/or diaphragm are arranged in between the first lens group and the second lens group, both of which are subsequent to the zoom lens.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

Takatsu relates to a drive circuit for a CCD image detector, which also employs a liquid crystal shutter as well as a mechanical shutter. As seen in Fig. 2, a lens 1 is arranged in front of the diaphragm, which itself is in front of the mechanical shutter, which is in front of the liquid crystal shutter all of which are arranged in front of the CCD image detector.

It is respectfully submitted that, in the first instance, there is no zoom lens shown or suggested in Takatsu. Furthermore, and more importantly, there is no first and second lens group with the LCD shutter and diaphragm arranged between the first lens group and the second lens group, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Therefore, by reason of these deficiencies of Takatsu, it is respectfully submitted that Takatsu fails to anticipate the present invention, as recited in the amended claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 10 and 19 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Takatsu.

As noted hereinabove, Takatsu fails to provide a zoom lens and fails to provide the first and second lens group with the optical shutter arranged between the first group and the

second group, as taught by the present invention and as recited in claim 10.

The cancellation of claim 19 renders moot the rejection thereof under 35 USC 102(b).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, and 16 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Oaki et al.

Oaki et al. relates to an optical image pickup for use with an electronic endoscope. A polarizing plate is employed with a variable focal point lens that passes light to an optically active plate that includes liquid crystal elements whose light output is then passed through a second polarizing plate before being focused onto the solid-state image pickup element.

It is respectfully submitted that Oaki et al. is silent concerning providing an electronic optical shutter arranged between first and second lens groups, as in the presently claimed invention. In fact, it appears that by reason of the optical system being employed with an endoscope the shutter function is not present. More importantly, because the endoscope is not intended as a stereoscopic system the first and second portions corresponding to the right image and the left image, respectively, as in the presently claimed invention, are not suggested in Oaki et al.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a stereoscopic zoom lens unit, as

taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" clearly legible.

Jay H. Maioli
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